



July 18, 2005

Jill Saligoe-Simmel, Ph.D.
Indiana Geographic Information Council, Inc.
Indiana State Library, GIS
140 North Senate Avenue, Room 306
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Jill:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support regarding the 2005 statewide aerial photo project. The photos will be of great benefit to citizens, business, government and utilities in Indiana.

Let me illustrate by some of the specific value to IMAGIS. While we are based in Indianapolis, IMAGIS members have responsibilities for a large geographic area in central Indiana. Indianapolis Water serves customers in 6 counties; Citizens Gas serves customers in 2 counties; the Metropolitan Planning Organizations serves 8 counties; Indianapolis Power & Light has distribution or transmission lines in 12 counties. The Marion County Sheriff, Indianapolis Police and township fire departments make mutual aid runs to 8 counties besides Marion. Our Indianapolis Fire Department's Search & Rescue team serves almost 30 Indiana counties.

We need accurate GIS data for all the areas we serve. It is difficult, though, to collect information from each of the many counties and municipalities. This statewide aerial photo effort will provide us with a very accurate, easy to get, GIS enabled basemap for all of our service territory.

The second value I see is organizational. The aerial photo effort required cooperation between county and state government; plus it enhanced communications across many state government agencies.

The third important component is that this project provides a valuable GIS commodity to cities, counties and municipal utilities (and businesses) who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

A fourth value is for education. Kids in elementary and high school, university students and faculty, and professionals in business and government get to see demonstrations and learn about geography, aerial photography, orthophoto processing, and digital elevation modeling.

Concluding, the statewide aerial photography project is a terrific idea, and will provide a huge, positive impact for government and business in Indiana.

On a personal note, Jill, your involvement in the success of this project cannot be overstated. Your connections with the Governor's office (in both administrations), state agencies, CTASC, and the INGISI orthophoto workgroup have added significantly to the value of the product. Additionally, thank you for your help with writing requests-for-proposals, participating in vendor selections and contract negotiations. This project could not have happened without you.

Sincerely,

Jim Stout
IMAGIS Program Manager
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